

Dear Senators,

Firstly, thank you for paying regard to our evidence and to our submission to the Iron Boomerang Inquiry.

Secondly I'd like to add a couple of items to my responses to Senator's question regarding what steel-making firms are already investigating and progressing towards replacing the use of metallurgical coal in iron smelting with hydrogen; you'll recall my referring you to announcements by Germany's Thyssenkrupp, Sweden's SSAB and India's ArcelorMittal.

Within a few hours of our interview on Friday 24 March I learned that Australian iron ore miners Fortescue Metals and BHP are also developing iron smelting processes using hydrogen in place of metallurgical coal, as described in news reports on the website RenewEconomy.

Fortescue: [Fortescue hails "green iron" breakthrough as own coal-free tech moves to pilot phase](#)

BHP: [BHP to pilot green smelting furnace using electricity, hydrogen and Pilbara iron ore](#)

In my view, this progress supports the contention of our submission that the use of metallurgical coal is most likely to greatly diminish, if not cease altogether, which means that any business case for the Iron Boomerang project should not depend on the transportation of metallurgical coal to Western Australia.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss this or any related issues.

Again, thank you for affording us the opportunity to present our argument.

David Arthur
President, Wide Bay Burnett Environment Council